



Swimming Pool Safety

The following are safety items that we check for when performing a final inspection on a swimming pool:

Fences/Barriers:

- The top of barrier must be a minimum 48" above grade, measured from the side of the barrier that faces away from the swimming pool.
- The maximum gap between the grade and bottom of barrier shall be 2".
- Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4" diameter sphere.
- Solid barriers, such as block walls, shall not contain indentations or protrusions, which could make them climbable.
- Where there are horizontal and vertical members and the distance to the top of the horizontal members is less than 45", the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between the vertical members shall not exceed 1 ¾". Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing between the cutouts shall not exceed 1 ¾" in width.
- Where there are horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45" or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4". Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1 ¾" in width.
- Maximum mesh size in chain link fence is 1 ¾" or slats provided which reduce the openings to not more than 1-3/4 inches.
- Maximum opening in diagonal members (i.e. lattice, etc.) is 1 ¾". The angle of diagonal members shall not be greater than 45 degrees from vertical.

Gates:

- Pedestrian access gates shall open outward and be equipped with a self-latching and self-closing device.
- Access gates (other than pedestrian) shall be equipped to accommodate a locking device.
- Where the release mechanism is located less than 54" high, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate at least 3" below the top of the gate and the gate and barrier shall have no opening greater than ½" within 18" of the release mechanism.

Dwellings Exiting Into Pool Area:

- Where a wall or dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following conditions shall be met:
 1. The pool shall be equipped with a power safety cover in compliance with ASTM F1346; or
 2. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices on doors opening away from the pool area; or
 3. Operable windows having a sill height of less than 48" above finished floor shall have an audible alarm listed and labeled as a water hazard entrance alarm in accordance with UL2017.

Exterior Electrical Outlets:

- All exterior electrical outlets shall have ground-fault circuit-interrupter (GFCI) protection per NEC 210.8, and shall be "WR" (weather resistant) rated per NEC 406.9.
- Within 20' of a pool, receptacles on the exterior of a residence shall be tamper-resistant. (680.22A)